

Section 3312.1 Water Supply For Fire Protection

Question: What is considered an approved water supply that meets the requirements of this section?

Interpretation: An approved water supply for a construction site shall meet the requirements of Appendix Chapters B and C. The minimum fire flow requirement when contractor or developer brings combustible materials on site is 1,500 gpm at 20 psi. At least one fire hydrant shall be within 500 feet of any combustible materials and capable of delivering the minimum fire flow requirement. This hydrant or hydrants may be either temporary or permanent as the project schedule permits.

In addition, there are times when hydrants and valves must be closed temporarily for repair work or construction of the water system. The developer/contractor is responsible for ensuring that the water supply is available at all times. When the work is complete, developer/contractor shall make sure that the fire hydrants are active and the valves are open.

Reasoning: Fires do occur on construction sites. When they do, it is necessary for the fire department to extinguish those fires as soon as possible to limit the damage not only to the materials on site and the construction in progress, but to protect exposures beyond the limits of the construction site. Without fire hydrants on the construction site, there will be a delay of water application on the construction site fires and could contribute to greater damage to the on site construction as well as the neighboring structures.